MICROFILMED

Secret NOFORN

POOR ORIGINAL 24 April 1977

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP

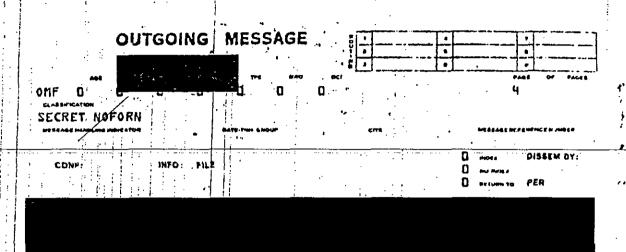
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TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE ------ ALIGN FIRST LET FER IN THIS LIOX. OUTGOING MESSAGE SECRET HOPORN COMP. INFO FILE 1.5 c LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 24 APRIL 1977 CHILE: //CARDINAL SILVA, PRIMATE OF CHILE, THE CLERGY'S GROUING HILITANCE MAY BE CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT TO HESITATE ABOUT TAKENG ANY ADDITIONAL REPRESSIVE STEPS THAT MIGHT FURTHER ANTAGONIZE ITS CHITICS./ DIZCHILLAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET. REACTING IN AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CONCILIATORY NANNER, HAS BACKED OFF FOR THE MOMENT FROM SOME OF THE PRIAMY~HANDED POLICIES THAT RECENTLY INCITED DITTER CONDEMNATION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. LABOR LEADERS: THE PRESS+ AND LEADING INTELLECTUALS. PINOCHET IS PROBABLY CONCERNED THAT HE HAD OVERSTEPPED HIMSELF BY ENACTING A SERIES OF HARSH NEA-SURES ADVOCATED BY A CLOSE CIRCLE OF EXTREME RIGHTIST ADVISERS.// //TO AVERT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ENUARRASSMENT AUROAD, PINOCHET ABRUPTLY OUSTED JUSTICE MINISTER DANTELANO ON APRIL BU. THE MINISTER, A BRUSQUE LAWYER AND A CRONY OF PINOCHLI WITH A PENCHANT FOR STEPPING ON TOES, WAS IN OFFICE FOR CH.G: Uint: 347:

TYPE THE WORD "ALIGH" TO REGISTER HERE-- ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. OUTGOING MESSAGE SECRET NOFORN INFO FILE JUST OVER A MONTH. HE AROUSED THE IRE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HIERARCHY BY PUBLICLY, ATTACKING A GROUP OF BISHOPS FOR THEIR SYKUNG CENSURE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN CHILE. VALANTLANO'S STATEMENTS APPEARED IN PRINT AT A TIME WHEN PINOCHET HAD BEEN CAUTICUSLY SEEKING TO AVOID FRICTION WITH THE CHURCH. IN A LETTER TO THE OFFENDED BISHOPS, THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY DISAVOUED THE VIEUS OF THE OUTSPOKEN MINISTER. MALTHOUGH LEADERS OF THE JUNTA AND CHURCH HAVE GONE TO SOIL LENGTHS TO KEEP THEIR DISPUTE FROM LEADING TO A SHARP DREAK. THE CHURCH SEEMS LIKELY TO ASSUME A MORE BELLIGERENT ATTITUDE IN THE FUTURE. SO FAR, THE MOST STRIKING EVIDENCE OF INCREASING STRIDENCY HAS BEEN AN ATTACK BY THE CHURCH ON THE JUNTA FOR DISSOLVING CHILL'S BEHAINING DEHOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES LAST BORTH. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY STRONGHOLD OF CRITICISM THAT HAS NOT BEEN STRENCED BY THE GOVERNMENT - /

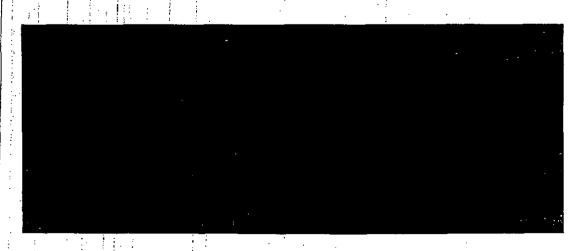
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EXCOMMUNICATION OF THE PRESI-

DENT AND HEMBERS OF THE JUNTA HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT AS A LAST

//MAY DAY OBSERVANCES PLANNED BY THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN
DEHOCRATIC LABOR LEADERS COULD PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR THE EXPRESSION
OF ANTIGOVERNMENT VIEWS. THE RELIGIOUS AND LADOR LEADERS WILL
PRODABLY BE CAREFUL. HOWEVER. TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT
PROVOKE A SHOWDOWN.



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